

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001

Crockett Services Held For Mary Spence Wootters, 100

Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Spence Wootters of Crockett were held Wednesday, December 27, in the First Baptist Church of Crockett with the Rev. E. P. Ramsey, Jr. and the Rev. David Valentine officiating. Interment followed in the Crockett's Glenwood Cemetery under the direction of Claybar Waller-Ramsey.

Pallbearers were Joseph Warren, James Warren, John Warren, Rusty Callier, Frank Towery and Dr. E. Perry Ramsey.

Mrs. Wootters, age 100, passed away on December 21, 2000, at East Texas Medical Center-Crockett. She was born in Crockett on August 24, 1900, to Robert Joseph and Mucie Dora Satterwhite Spence. She attended Southern Methodist and Columbia Universities and taught high school at Lovelady. In 1924 she married Dr. John H. Wootters of Crockett, a marriage that endured for 61 years until they were parted by the death of her husband in 1985.

The couple made their home and reared their only child, John Henry Wootters, Jr., in Houston where Dr. Wootters practiced medicine and surgery from 1924 until 1962. They were active in South Main Baptist Church there, where Mary taught Sunday school and founded and served as superintendent of the Cradle Roll Department. She also served as president of the Harris County Medical Auxiliaries.

Mrs. Wootters, a dedicated gardener and flower-lover, was a charter member of the River Oaks Rose Club of Houston. She became a recognized authority on the Japanese art of flower arranging and was much in demand as a flower-show judge and lecturer throughout Texas and Louisiana.

Upon Dr. Wootters' retirement

in 1962, the couple moved back to Crockett and involved themselves in many community affairs. Mrs. Wootters taught a Sunday school class at First Baptist Church and was the founding president of the George W. Crook and Hallie M. Crook Memorial, Inc., an entity created to restore and preserve the historic Monroe-Crook in Crockett, built in 1848 by a grandnephew of President James Monroe. She organized and was overseer of the build-board of directors for many years. At the same time, she actively assisted her husband in his successful efforts to bring a first-class public library to Crockett and she was instrumental in hiring the first professional librarian and in the development of the library's outstanding genealogical collections. The library now bears Dr. Wootters name as a memorial in his honor.

In 1971, Mrs. Wootters was an organizing member and first Chaplain of Crockett's Major Jarrell Beasley Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Her active membership in the Davy Crockett Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, began in 1983.

Mrs. Wootters is survived by her son, John Henry Wootters, Jr., 72, and daughter-in-law, Jeanne McRae Wootters of Ingram; a brother, Robert Joseph Spence, 96, of Trenton, Florida; and a niece, Cora Sue Wootters Warren of Tomball and her husband Dr. Joseph Fielding Warren, their children and grandchildren.

For those desiring, the family requests that memorial donations be directed to Mary Wootters' beloved institutions, the George W. Crook and Hallie M. Crook Memorial, Inc. or to the John H. Wootters Public Library, Crockett.

*Glenwood
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